REMARKS

In response to the Official Action of October 6, 2006, claim 1 has been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the objection and rejection raised in the Official Action.

More particularly, claim 1 is objected to at paragraph 3 for use of a limitation in parentheses, for use of a "dot" before "a roof" at line 2, and for not having a period as an end marker. Amendment has been made to claim 1 to overcome these objections.

At paragraph 5 of the Official Action, claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over US patent 5,512,737, Miklos, in view of US patent 4,861,956, Courneya, or US patent D463,200, Choi.

Miklos is cited as showing a microwave oven liner, Courneya is cited for showing a microwave oven having a roof and a floor with the roof being shorter at the front than the floor, and Choi is cited to show it is as a matter of design to form a microwave oven with a sealing roof shorter in the front than the bottom floor.

Claim 1 as amended is believed to overcome this art rejection. In particular, the present invention discloses a microwave oven liner where its roof is shorter at the front than its floor and is configured to be open relative to the microwave oven so as to allow air to circulate for steam removal from the oven. It is clear from examination of the figures, including figures 1, 2 and 5, that the roof (12) of liner (11) is shorter than floor (14) of the liner, as well as shorter than the roof (6) of the microwave oven (1). Claim 1 has been amended to make clear that the roof is not only shorter at the front relative to the floor, but also open relative to the microwave oven so as to allow air to circulate for steam withdrawal from the oven.

The disclosures in Courneya and Choi both show microwave ovens in which the roof is shorter than the floor. However, if a liner in accordance with Miklos is made for either of the ovens, it would necessarily have a roof shorter than the floor in order to

conform the liner to the oven housing. This is clear from Miklos since in Miklos, the purpose of the liner is specifically to conform to the heating cavity and to form a vapor-type boundary between the heating cavity and the housing (see Miklos column 3, lines 18-22). As disclosed in Miklos, the purpose of such an oven liner is to prevent vapors from reaching the capacitor plates of the oven and therefore the oven liner is dimensioned to create a vapor-type boundary which reduces or eliminates arcing and flashover (see Miklos column 2, lines 47-55).

There is no suggestion in Miklos of having a liner in which the roof is shorter than the floor and is open relative to the microwave oven so as to allow air to circulate for steam withdrawal from the oven. In particular, the liner disclosed in Miklos has alternative means for removal of vapor from the liner, such as a liner exhaust port (30) and an exhaust guide (31) formed in liner top wall (10) which extends through a housing exhaust port (230) (see Miklos column 5, lines 3-7 and Figure 2). Consequently, since the liner in Miklos has a different mechanism for exhausting vapors therefrom as compared to the present invention, there would be no motivation for shortening the roof relative to the floor so as to be open relative to the microwave oven for purposes of allowing air circulation.

In particular, such a design would be contrary to the very purpose of Miklos, as noted above; namely, to separate the housing from the product (to be heated in the oven) with a liner so that capacitor plates of the oven are shielded from vapors produced when the product is heated.

As noted above, the microwave oven shown in Courneya and Choi would only give rise to a possible shortening of the liner to conform to the shorter roof of the microwave oven and would not provide for an opening of the roof relative to the microwave oven as required by amended claim 1.

In short, the modification of a liner to fit in the microwave ovens of Courneya or Choi based on the liner disclosed in Miklos, does not result in a liner in accordance with the present invention as claimed, since simply reducing the length of the roof of the liner

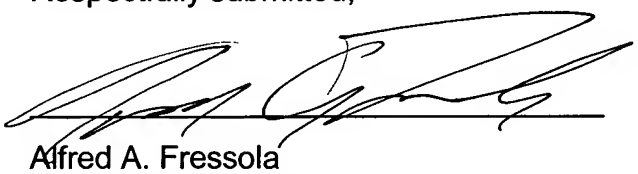
in accordance with the length of the roof of the oven, does not allow for circulation of air to withdraw steam from the oven.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended is not suggested by Miklos in view of Courneya or Choi. Since claim 1 is believed to be distinguished over the cited art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-16, all of which ultimately depend from amended claim 1, are further distinguished over the cited art.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

The undersigned respectfully submits that no fee is due for filing this Amendment. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account 23-0442 any fee deficiency required to submit this paper.

Respectfully submitted,



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